

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 057307
ORIGIN L-03

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TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057307

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, OCON

SUBJECT: FOOD AID CONVENTION

REF: GENEVA 3448

1. WE CONCUR IN ARTICLE PROPOSED REFTTEL SUBJECT TO FOLLOWING.

2. WHILE NOTHING IN TEXT OF ARTICLE PROPOSED REFTTEL WOULD AUTHORIZE FOOD AID COMMITTEE TO DICTATE ALLOCATION OF U.S. FOOD AID, IT WOULD BE TECHNICALLY POSSIBLE, FOR PRODUCTION SHORTFALLS AND INCREASED NEEDS TO OCCUR ONLY IN COUNTRIES TO WHICH WE WOULD NOT OR COULD NOT CONTRIBUTE. INCREASE OF U.S. AID BY RECOMMENDED PERCENTAGE MIGHT, IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES, BE UNJUSTIFIED.

3. WE ASSUME DELEGATION INTENDED TO CREATE SOME AMBIGUITY IN PROPOSED ARTICLE. FIRST SENTENCE IS EXPRESSED AS AN OBLIGATION TO INCREASE FOOD AID OVER THE MINIMUM, BUT THIS OBLIGATION IS OF AN UNSPECIFIED AMOUNT
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(THOUGH NOT TO EXCEED 20) AND ONLY IN UNDEFINED CIRCUMSTANCES OF PRODUCTION SHORTFALL IN LLDC'S ETC.

IT IS THEN AMBIGUOUS IN REMAINDER OF ARTICLE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF FOOD AID COMMITTEE AS TO DEGREE OF SHORTFALL AND INCREASE IN AID BECOME IN ANY SENSE BINDING ON MEMBERS BECAUSE

OF THE FIRST SENTENCE. WE THINK FOOD AID COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD NOT BE BINDING UNDER PRESENT
LANGUAGE.
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